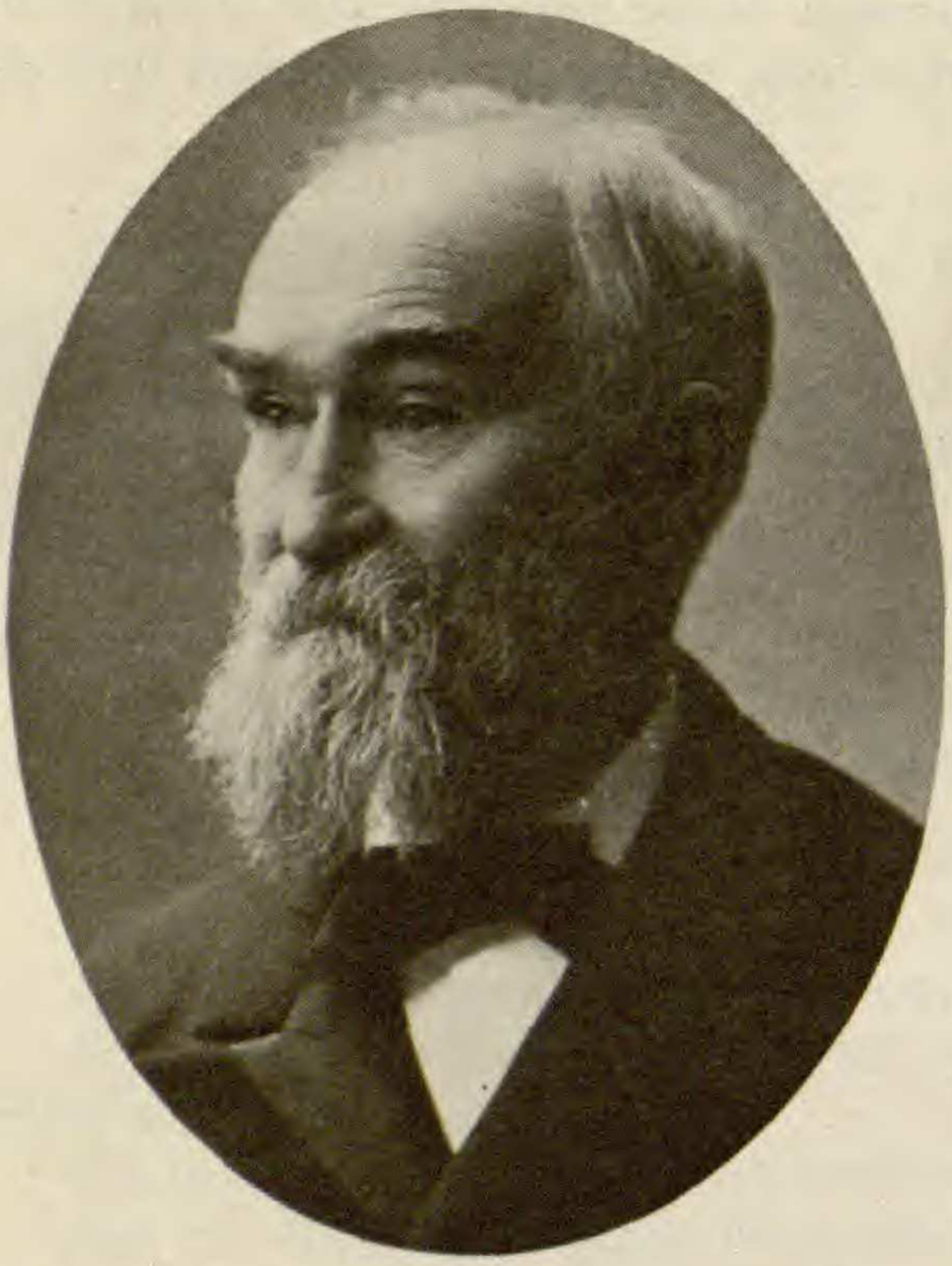
BRIEFER ARTICLES

JOHN MACOUN

(WITH PORTRAIT)

Professor JOHN MACOUN, the well known Canadian naturalist, died July 18, 1920, at Sidney, British Columbia, after a long career in natural science, having given much to the world and brought great credit to the Dominion and to himself.

Being equally well versed in zoology and botany, his death is a severe loss to natural science. Even at the age of 89 years, Professor MACOUN was still active, and never lost his energy and interest for his science. He was born near Belfast, Ireland, in 1831, and came to Canada in 1850, when 20 years of age, with his mother and two brothers, and the family settled near Campbellford, Northumberland County. For a number of years Professor MACOUN taught school, and became professor of natural science at Albert College in Belleville. The greater part of his work was the exploration of the then unknown west; in 1872 he was invited by Sir SANFORD FLEMING, the supervising engineer, to accompany him as botanist in a tour across Canada, in connection with the surveys for the proposed Pacific railway. This tour forms the theme of Principal GEORGE M. GRANT's well known *Ocean to ocean*, Dr. GRANT being one of the party. In 1875 Professor MACOUN accompanied Dr. SELWYN on the expedition to the Peace River District, where he made extensive collections of plants and animals for the Museum at Ottawa. Four years later, in 1879, he was sent by Sir CHARLES TUPPER to the north-



west to make some observations, and then began the collection of data upon which the *Catalogue of Canadian birds* is based, and which is the standard authority on that subject. The summers of 1879 and 1880 were spent on the prairies, ten parties having been sent to examine the country and ascertain its possibilities. Professor MACOUN was actively engaged in those two years, and in 1881 spent a considerable time in northern Manitoba. This long apprenticeship for the government service secured his appointment to the Geological and Natural History Survey in January, 1882, and the summers of 1882 and 1883 were spent around the lower St. Lawrence. In 1884 Professor MACOUN was located at Lake Nipigon, and in 1885 came back to British Columbia, operating in the Selkirks and Rockies. In 1887 he came to Vancouver Island again, and the next year moved to the Atlantic, working in Prince Edward Island in 1888. He was then promoted to assistant director and naturalist of the Survey, which position he continued to fill for many years. Since then Professor MACOUN made several long excursions to the East and West, and had the opportunity to even visit the little known Yukon Valley. In 1912 Professor MACOUN moved to Sidney, British Columbia, where he resided until his death.

The scientific work of Professor MACOUN covers a wide range in botany and zoology. He was remarkably gifted as an observer and collector. As an author botanists are familiar with his numerous publications on natural science, among which the *Catalogue of Canadian plants* is to his credit, representing an immense amount of work done by himself and his faithful assistant, his son, the late JAMES M. MACOUN. Both father and son devoted all their time to the development of natural science in Canada. The work they have left is an ample testimony of their united labors to promote science, and by their death the Canadian Dominion has lost two of its most brilliant and faithful servants.—THEO. HOLM, *Clinton, Md.*